

BOOK NOTICE

INSECTS IN YOUR LIFE. By C. H. Curran. Sheridan House, New York, 1951. 316 p., 16 plates, \$3.50.

This book is a collection of short essays on various insects and near relatives of popular interest. Fleas, clothes moths, carpet beetles, termites, butterflies and ticks all receive a bit of attention. One chapter, of 14 short pages (Insects About the House), covers house centipedes, measuring works, cluster flies, spider beetles, springtails and snowfleas, lady beetles, silverfish, elm leaf beetles and fall webworm. Yet, in this small space the author succeeds in answering, conversationally, many of the questions commonly asked by the housewife. Another chapter of 14 pages "On Eating Insects" will, no doubt, cause the housewife to add to the list of questions commonly asked of the entomologist. The European Hornet, *Vespa crabro*, is treated as "the Rival of the Japanese Beetle" in another short chapter. Some 12 pages are spent on woolly bear caterpillar exploration, conducted in cahoots with a newspaperman, while "How Flies Fly" consumes 33 pages and explains the interest of the Sperry Gyroscope Company in matters dipterological.

Along with facts, some new, some recent and some fabled, Dr. Curran's opinions are given on some highly controversial subjects. This book was certainly written for popular consumption, and if it causes the lay reader to take an interest in the subject matter and to pursue the subject further, it will probably have served its purpose.—F. A. S.